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Sample

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Avalanche Notes

INT FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

FEB 4 1985

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

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December 1985

The prevailing storm track in December was from the Cascades of Washington and Oregon, through northern Utah to northern Wyoming, and into Colorado. Both north and south of this belt, snowfalls were well below normal. For example, Alyeska, AK recorded only 60% of normal snows, and in the Sierras of California, Mammoth Mtn. totaled 65% of normal, Alpine Meadows, 57%, and Squaw Valley, 44%. Only one day produced double-digit snows in the Sierras: 14-24 inches fell on the 16th.

The Cascades were the only mountain range to have consistently above-normal snows. Mt. Hood Meadows, OR recorded 140% of normal, Crystal Mtn., WA, 120%, and Mt. Rainier, WA, 110%. The heaviest snows fell over the Cascades on the 27th-30th when 44-59 inches accumulated.

In the intermountain area, Bridger Bowl, MT was helped by 36 inches of snow on the 1st-2nd and received 97% of normal for the month. Although Jackson Hole, WY had no days with snowfall greater than 9 inches, it still managed 126% of normal snows. Snowbird, UT came in with 117% of normal and recorded 56 inches on the 16th-22nd.

In Colorado, snowfall varied considerably. In the north, Berthoud Pass received 76% of normal; Copper Mtn, Vail, and Breckenridge all reported 90% of normal. The Aspen areas all received above-normal snow: Aspen Mtn. recorded 170% of normal. Crested Butte got 110% of normal, while further south, Wolf Creek was above normal. On the 28th, Wolf Creek recorded 26 inches of snow which contained 4.90 inches water equivalent.

The same warm storm struck Taos, NM on the 28th and dropped 12 inches of snow having 2.00 inches water equivalent. For the month, Taos reported 80% of normal snowfall.

Avalanche totals were generally below normal for December, but there were some interesting exceptions. Taos, NM had one of its busiest months ever with 173 recorded avalanches. Despite below-average snowfall, the snow came in two storm periods which put its load on a TG-weakened snowpack. In the San Juan Mtns. of Colorado, there were many long-running avalanches, and it was a busy month on Red Mtn. Pass where 51 slides hit the highway. Snowmass, CO endured a cycle of deep-slab releases on the 11th and again on the 17th. Jackson Hole, WY also survived a cycle of 4-to 8-foot slabs on the 24th.

Two fatal accidents occurred in December, both near Aspen, CO. On the 13th, a lone lift skier went out-of-bounds at Aspen Mtn, triggered a soft-slab avalanche, and was completely buried except for one hand. When he was reported missing the next day, searchers followed his tracks to the slide. He was uncovered dead from a shallow burial. On the 31st, two ski tourers triggered a slide at Taylor Pass south of Aspen. One grabbed a tree, and was only partly buried, and dug herself out. She searched the debris but found no sign of her partner. Hours later, a rescue party found the victim totally buried against a tree, but with a ski tip sticking out. He was not deeply buried but was dead when uncovered.

The avalanche toll through December is tabulated below. Three buildings in southern Colorado suffered minor damage in December. All were mine buildings that were grazed by large avalanches. Also this table contains up-to-date statistics on Alaskan accidents, provided by Doug Fesler. Thus far, eight separate incidents in Alaska have caught 13 climbers, tourers, and snurfers; partly buried 2; and injured 3.

Total Avalanches Reported

Damage Summary - This winter

Area	This Month	This Winter	People				Vehicles		Avalanche Damaged		
			C	B	I	K	B	D	Bldgs	Lifts	Misc.
Central and So. Rockies	690	868	11	6	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
Intermountain	280	463	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	479	894	21	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Areas	1449	2225	36	10	5	3	0	0	3	0	0

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINE SNOW RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

DECEMBER 1984

SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS	SNOWFALL			WATER EQUIVALENT			SNOW DEPTH			TEMPERATURE			WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION				
		TOTAL SNOW IN.	MAX 24 Hr. IN.	Avg 24 Hr. IN.	MAX D IN.	MAX D IN.	NUMBER OF DAYS	D	MAX A IN.	MIN E IN.	MAX A IN.	MIN E IN.	MEAN MAX DEGREES F	Avg MIN DEGREES F	Avg MO. MPH	Avg 15 MPH	Avg 20 MPH	
	ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLORADO	41.5	—	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	12	42	48	23.8	
	ASPEN HIGH LANDS, COLORADO	69.2	0.07	12	12	4.0	93	12	13	10	4	0	48	28	26	37	28.6	
	ASPEN MOUNTAIN, COLORADO	63.0	0.08	11	12	5.0	0.2	1.2	12	9	3	1	42	12	27	34	28.3	
	BEAR LAKE RMP, COLORADO	29.1	—	18	13	2.0	12	3	2	1	0	10	28	13	18	20.5	13.5	
	BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO	55.5	0.07	18	12	3.0	87	1.25	12	9	6	1	11	12	35	44	25.5	
	BERTHOLD PASS, COLORADO	38.0	0.07	11	12	2.0	67	6.5	12	10	4	1	0	10	3.3	37	24.9	
	BERTHOUD MINES PEAK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO	47.9	0.06	16	12	3.0	0.9	90	12	11	8	1	0	54	12	29	38	24.7
	COPPER Mtn., COLORADO	43.5	0.07	13	12	3.0	81	1.25	12	9	6	1	11	10	4.0	10.0	15.0	15.5
	CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO	52.0	0.07	9	28	3.0	20	28	11	9	2	1	0	45	12	33	47	21.0
	GOTHIC, COLORADO	74.7	0.07	9	28	3.0	20	74	28	15	10	4	1	0	10	4.0	17.9	18.0
	LOVELAND PASS, U.S. 6	36.5	0.07	10	12	1.0	92	7.4	12	9	2	1	0	55	13	7	15.8	15.8
	MARVINE RANCH, COLORADO	39.0	0.06	10	21	3.0	28	5.5	13	7	6	2	1	24	2.0	28	33.5	6.9
	MARY JANE, COLORADO	63.0	0.05	15	12	3.0	37	85	12	9	6	1	0	54	12	29	38	24.7
	MONARCH, COLORADO	55.1	0.06	11	17	3.0	70	12	10	7	5	2	1	0	40	12	29	30.2
	PURGATORY, COLORADO	94.6	0.07	15	21	6.0	35	1.25	28	13	11	9	0	40	12	29	32.0	18.8
	SUNLIGHT, COLORADO	61.4	0.07	15	21	4.0	15	8.5	21	11	9	3	0	54	12	29	38.0	15.2
	TAOS, NEW MEXICO	34.5	—	12	28	3.0	41	11	12	8	7	1	0	54	13	7	19.2	—
	TELLOURIDE, COLORADO	52.0	0.07	11	28	3.0	41	8.5	28	12	8	7	1	0	54	12	29	38.0
	VAIL, COLORADO	61.0	0.06	17	12	3.0	71	12	13	7	6	0	1	0	54	12	29	38.0
	WINTER PARK, COLORADO	34.5	0.06	12	12	3.0	70	12	14	7	2	1	0	54	12	29	38.0	14.0
	WOLF CREEK, COLORADO	89.0	0.07	16	11	6.0	48	1.19	11	14	4	2	0	54	12	29	38.0	14.5
	INTERMOUNTAIN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	BIG SKY, MONTANA	43.0	0.07	10	15	2.0	86	1.50	20	17	7	2	0	68	2.0	50	56	20.6
	BRIDGER BOWL, MONTANA	68.5	0.05	20	1	2.0	57	1.20	7	7	2	1	0	55	2.2	50	56	25.6
	GRAND TARGHEE, WYOMING	64.6	0.05	8	1	2.0	95	1.50	1	11	6	1	0	55	2.4	35	44	22.0
	JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING	93.0	0.07	9	1	6.0	96	1.00	12	15	7	1	0	54	2.2	35	44	13.8
	SCHWEITZER BASIN, IDAHO	65.4	—	11	27	6.0	44	1.27	17	13	10	—	—	96	2.9	62	78	19.4
	SNOWBIRD, UTAH	98.5	0.07	17	17	6.0	35	1.60	11	13	7	6	0	85	2.1	21	30.6	19.5
	SOLITUDE, UTAH	36.0	0.07	10	11	4.0	27	17	13	10	4	2	0	85	2.1	21	30.0	19.5
	SUN VALLEY, IDAHO	34.4	0.07	11	11	2.0	88	1.88	11	13	7	6	0	85	2.1	21	30.0	19.5
	TETON PASS, WYOMING	89.0	0.07	16	11	6.0	48	1.19	11	14	4	2	0	85	2.1	21	30.0	19.5
	WEST COAST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	ALPINE MEADOWS, CALIFORNIA	37.5	0.08	24	17	2.0	99	1.53	17	15	4	2	1	70	1.6	49	54	20.6
	ALYESKA, ALASKA	57.0	0.11	12	31	8.0	52	1.50	31	16	10	4	1	58	3.1	30	40	29.9
	CRYSTAL Mtn., COLORADO	92.6	0.10	19	30	10.0	0.00	1.63	30	14	12	9	3	75	3.0	36	49	27.4
	CRYSTAL Mtn., WASHINGTON	113.0	0.09	12	29	9.0	99	1.00	29	15	12	8	3	102	3.1	61	74	23.1
	EAGLE CREST, ALASKA	60.0	0.08	13	14	8.0	0.00	1.35	6	14	12	5	3	37	3.1	10	26	21.1
	HEAVENLY VALLEY, CALIFORNIA	12.0	—	13	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	1.6	30	33	22.7
	JUNiper MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA	29.5	—	13	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	22.7
	MAMMOTH Mtn., CALIFORNIA	42.0	—	20	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	1.9	25	30	20.7
	MT. HOOD, OREGON	123.8	—	14	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	1.16	39	47	27.7
	MT. RAINIER, PARADISE	151.8	—	11	23	16.0	2.0	2.30	22	16	12	6	0	146	3.0	88	113	27.2
	MT. ROSE/SLIDE Mtn., NEVADA	21.4	—	10	15	6.0	87	1.21	10	14	11	6	0	150	3.0	67	133	22.0
	MUL TORPOR SKI BLM, OREGON	98.5	—	16	13	6.0	87	1.21	10	14	11	6	0	74	1.6	36	15.8	24.7
	SQUAW VALLEY, CALIFORNIA	142.0	—	21	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67	1.37	30	54	31.7
	STEVE VENS PASS, WASHINGTON	141.5	—	12	14	2.0	63	1.40	16	15	2	1	0	115	3.0	51	70	20.1
	STEVENS PASS, WASHINGTON	126.5	—	16	17	2.0	37	1.50	18	14	2	1	0	81	1.6	63	68	40.0
	SUGAR BOWL, CALIFORNIA	42.5	—	16	23	2.0	37	1.56	15	20	18	14	8	107	3.0	56	73	25.2
	— DATA INCORPORATED OR MISSING IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED GE-GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	127	1.6	96	105	24.7
	— ONE OR MORE DAYS OF RECORD MISSING-IF AVERAGE VALUE IS ENTERED, LESS THAN 10 DAYS ARE MISSING IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED COLUMN, LESS THAN 37 6-HOUR PERIODS ARE MISSING	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	3.8	40	50	13

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINIC SNOW AND AVALANCHE RESEARCH PROJECT
STATION FORUM COLLINS, COLO.

DECEMBER 1944
AVALANCHE SUMMARY

AREA	TOTAL		TOTAL		DATES OF		NUMBER OF		TYPE OF AVALANCHE		FRACTURE LINE HEIGHTS IN FEET		VERTICAL DESCENT		AVALANCHE			
	AVALANCHE		AVALANCHE		DAYS WITH		AVALANCHE		AVALANCHE		LINES IN FEET		IN FEET		ACROSS MAJOR ACCESS ROADS NO.			
	THIS MONTH NO.	WINTER NO.	THIS MONTH	WINTER NO.	1	F	MAX LINE DAY	MAX LINE DAY	SLABS	SLABS	0	0	GE 200	GE 500	GE 1000	MAX FEET		
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS																		
ARAPAHOE BASIN* COLO	25	30	10	12	28+	8	3	13	12	0	12	0	6	0	700	0	0	
ASPEN HIGHLANDS* COLO	5	3	2	2	12	2	1	3	7	0	10	2	10	0	3500	0	0	
ASPEN MOUNTAIN* COLO	71	71	10	12	23	12	10	6	69	2	18	53	0	0	5000	0	0	
ASPEN SNOWMASS* COLO	35	18	12	12	23	12	11	2	11	22	0	33	13	14	4500	0	0	
BEAVER CREEK* COLO	35	18	12	12	23	12	11	1	11	22	0	31	11	10	4175	0	0	
BERTHOUD PASS* U.S. 40	20	35	11	18	18	18	1	18	7	22	0	25	21	10	3000	0	0	
BRECKENK RIDGE* COLO	29	30	13	13	23	15	13	1	12	7	0	28	20	4	500	0	0	
COPPER MT* COLO	38	58	14	14	39	15	15	10	7	25	10	0	34	15	14	21500	0	0
CRESTED BUTTE* COLO	67	87	14	14	39	15	15	15	15	67	15	52	28	5	54	44	0	
GOTHIC* COLO	15	48	2	2	22	15	15	13	6	6	15	50	0	15	50	21	0	
GOVETT LAND BASIN* COLO	34	64	2	2	22	15	15	12	3	2	10	32	0	1	4000	0	0	
LOVELAND PASS* U.S. 6	10	10	2	2	22	15	15	12	3	2	19	69	0	104	55	6	0	
MONARCH* COLORADO	108	109	24	24	29	30	12	10	1	19	89	0	14	10	105	82	49	
RED MTN PASS* U.S. 550	114	114	12	12	23	37	16	15	2	11	19	9	0	14	14	3320+	51	
SAN JUAN MTS* COLO	5	5	12	12	17	17	12	2	0	1	15	4	0	15	15	14	2800+	
SILVERTON* COLORADO	9	9	14	14	17	17	15	12	3	1	19	7	0	14	15	15	0	
SUNLIGHT* COLORADO	173	184	18	18	31	66	28	10	1	163	10	19	150	0	121	39	1	
TAOS* NEW MEXICO	173	183	28	28	31	66	28	1	1	0	1	0	100	0	100	141	0	
TELLURIDE* COLO	1	1	10	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
URAD MINE* COLO	26	29	9	29	27	3	9	27	3	0	22	4	0	13	4	1	0	
WOLF CREEK* COLO	24	16	27	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	1	1	1	0	
WOLF CRK PASS* U.S. 160	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
INTERMOUNTAIN																		
ALTA* UTAH	14	74	2	2	28	8	28	6	1	12	1	93	2	185	0	0	860	0
BIG SKY* MONT	96	127	1	50	24	1	12	0	0	41	12	6	0	0	42	42	1200	
BRIDGER BOWL* MONT	53	68	1	28	32	11	24	1	4	57	11	6	0	12	12	36	11000	
JACKSON HOLE* WYO	68	68	1	29	29	11	29	1	0	19	8	0	1	25	9	56	14000	
SCHWEITZER BASIN* ID	1	1	22	22	29	8	28	10	0	14	0	0	1	21	1	21	17000	
SNOWBIRD* UTAH	27	72	22	22	28	10	28	15	0	19	8	0	15	0	0	15	23000	
SOUTIUTE* UTAH	18	18	12	13	28	10	23	23	1	0	14	4	0	7	0	0	29000	
TELTON PASS* WYO 22	1	1	1	1	23	1	23	23	1	29	1	0	1	0	0	0	3000	
JASATCH RANGE* UTAH	2	2	1	2	29	17	29	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
WEST COAST																		
ALPINE MEADOWS* CAL	126	202	10	12	31	9	16	5	0	123	5	0	12	0	27	0	0	
ALYESKA* ALASKA	60	96	122	1	29	25	12	5	6	6	0	14	0	0	27	0	0	
CRYSTAL MTN* WASH	14	14	12	12	24	5	13	1	1	13	0	0	13	0	54	12	0	
EAGLE CREST* ALASKA	13	13	11	12	16	16	16	16	1	16	4	0	14	0	9	11	0	
HEAVENLY VALLEY* CALIF	1	1	1	1	16	16	16	16	1	16	4	0	16	0	0	17	1300	
JUNEAU MOUNTAIN* CALIF	32	100	115	115	16	16	16	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	1500	
MAMMOTH MTN* CALIF	32	100	115	115	16	16	16	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	900	
MISSION RIDGE* WASH	11	11	15	15	30	6	30	6	1	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	
MT. HOOD MEADOWS	40	99	15	20	30	5	12	9	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	24	0	
MT. RAINIER* WASH	15	20	30	30	5	9	9	5	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	4	0	
MT. ROSE SLIDE* MT. NV	14	125	10	16	7	16	6	2	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	300	
SJUAN VALLEY* CALIF	44	123	11	16	24	16	16	16	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	400	
STEVENS PASS* U.S. 2	52	62	11	16	30	17	17	17	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	31	
SUGAR BOWL* CALIF	25	31	16	16	23	16	16	16	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	31	

---DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
---GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO
---SEAL'S OCCURRED ON OTHER DATES